GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Killing of Peacocks
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that killing of the National Bird is on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for the rise in the said incident, if so, the details and outcome thereof;
(c) whether the Government is aware that Peacock is the only bird whose feathers are allowed to be sold as there is no ban on collecting and selling feathers shed by the bird;
(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring some regulation/ guidelines in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken to check killing of the National Bird by poachers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) Reports of poaching of peacocks have been received in the Ministry from time to time. The management and protection of wildlife like birds and animals is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. Information on death of peacocks in the States/Union Territories is not collated in the Ministry.

Presently, no specific study to assess the killings of peacocks in the country has been carried out by the Ministry. However, a study was carried out by TRAAFIC-India, on "Understanding the Peafowl Feather Trade in India: 2014-15". The following are the important outcomes of the study:

i. The volume of Peafowl feather trade was high and peafowl poached or killed by poisoning was also high.
ii. Use of peacock tail feathers and body parts in medical prescriptions.
iii. Monetary profit makes a primary driver for large scale trade of peafowl feather across India

(c) and (d) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 exempts transfer and trade of tail feather of peacock and animal article or trophies made therefrom. As of now, guidelines/regulations in this regard are not contemplated.

(e) The important steps taken by the Government for protection of peacocks include:

i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
ii. Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of peacocks.
iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
iv. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around Protected Areas.
v. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats. Five Protected Areas have been created especially for the conservation of peacocks.
vi. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', for providing better protection to wildlife including peacock, and improvement of habitat.

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